

**WIDDRINGTON STATION & STOBWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> March, 2018 COMMENCING AT 6.30. P.M.**

In attendance were Councillors G Askew, Mrs S Willoughby (Chair), K Batson,

R A Smith (Parish Clerk).  
Police Constable Paul Dent  
Public - one

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Gareth Tate

**2. To receive declarations of interest**

Cllr Batson declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to any matters relating to the Stobswood Welfare and Cllr Askew declared a non-pecuniary interest in regard to any matters relating to the Area Training & Activity Centre (ATAC) at Widdrington Station and NCC Coquet Children's Centre.

**3. To receive questions and comments from members of the public (time limited to 20 minutes in total)**

P C Dent reported two incidents of damage to cars when car tyres were slashed and a brick smashed a window. The recent snow storms caused considerable disruption. All organisations struggled to cope in very difficult conditions. Too many travellers did not heed the warnings of only making essential journeys. Cllr Mrs Willoughby referred to the assistance given by the helping hands group and local Farmers who were a credit to the community.

P C Dent confirmed that he had arranged a meeting with the owner of the Junction and Sidings Bar to be attended by the Public Protection Officer from the Northumberland County Council in regard to the Licence to be held at the beginning of April. He was thanked for his report and then left the meeting.

Michael Kearns of Roselyne, Grange Road, Widdrington Station again referred to the deterioration of the roadway leading to the properties opposite the Grange View First School entrance. The Northumberland County Council Highways Officer had inspected the roadway and deemed that the deterioration did not meet the criteria for repair/improvement work to be carried out. Mr Kearns supplied photographs of tarmac repairs that the County Council Highways had carried out further along the road and he could not understand why consideration was not given to the roadway and verges being included. Reference was also made in regard to the main water supply stop cock for the area which is located at the roadway. Cllr Mrs Willoughby requested the Clerk to forward Mr Kearns's concern and photographs to the NCC Highway Officer for comments.

**4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 for approval and adoption**

Cllr Batson proposed to approve and adopt the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Askew and carried.

**5. Matters arising on the Minutes**

(Minute 3 page 24 refers) Cllr Mrs Willoughby stated that the owners were now offering the property Avala Park on the Mile Road for sale by auction. The auction will be held at the end of March.

**6. Reports from Outside Bodies.**

none

**7. Correspondence received**

a) Letter from the Treasurer of The Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Committee. This year the Gathering is celebrating its fifty first year and will be held from the 6<sup>th</sup> April to the 8<sup>th</sup> April. There are approximately sixty events over the three days of the Gathering with live performers, street entertainers, exhibitions and demonstrations all around the town as well as the cavalcade on the Saturday morning. Much of the Gathering is free, some events are charged. However, the expenses for the weekend need to be met and therefore they were making their annual appeal for donations to fund the cost of the weekend. Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed a donation of £50.00; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.

b) **Alnwick Playhouse & Arts Centre**

Letter from the Chair of the Trustees, Alnwick Playhouse Trust. The Trustees were requesting the Parish Council's financial support towards running costs for the upcoming year. Donations are really important in helping the Trust to continue to deliver an arts programme for all ages to the local communities throughout the county. The Playhouse provides high quality entertainment without having to travel long distances. Plans for the Playhouse redevelopment with the new landlords Northumberland County Council means that the Trust are actively focusing on fundraising for the significant capital project ahead. Details of the 2017 costs were given. Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed a donation of £50.00; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Batson and carried.

**8. Planning Applications**

P/App Ref 18/00143/FUL – Proposed alterations to form a second storey with additional accommodation.  
Location – Alyncroft, Mile Road, Widdrington Station, NE61 5QP. Applicant Reverend Ray Biddiss – Letter received from the County Council 22.02.18 advising permission granted.

**9. Parish Council Standing Orders.**

Standing Order 1(a) states " Meetings of the Council shall be held on the second Monday of each month starting at 6.30pm unless the Council otherwise decides at a previous meeting. Where this coincides with a Bank Holiday, the meeting will be held on the next Monday following the Bank Holiday. That the Parish Council has exclusive use of the Widdrington Station Community Centre Lounge from 6.30pm on the second Monday of each month. That the duration of the monthly Parish Council Meeting shall be limited to a maximum of two hours subject to the Chair's discretion to prolong the meeting if required".

Consideration was given by the Council at the monthly meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 to reduce the number of monthly meetings in the Council Year to 10 with the withdrawal of the January and August monthly meetings. A formal resolution was required to amend standing order 1a.  
Cllr Mrs Willoughby proposed that standing order 1a is amended to state that the number of monthly Parish Council's meetings in the year is 10 and that no meetings are held in January and August; Cllr Askew seconded the proposal which was carried.

**10. Parish Council Events:-**

**Financial Statements in regard to Parish Council Events**

Deferred to next meeting.

**11. Finance**

i) Parish Clerk's financial statement – monthly update – Bank of Ireland Account as at 28.02.2018 - £44,777.81 reconciled with Bank Account monthly Statement for February, 2018  
Receipts – Bank Account Monthly Interest £4.03.  
The Clerk advised that the Annual Claim for Value Added Tax from HMRC had been submitted to claim £4,797.79

ii) Payments to be Approved:-

Parish Clerk's February Salary £562.69  
Parish Clerk's February Expenses £24.72 (Working from Home Allowance £10.00, Home Internet and Telephone £8.00, Postage £6.72)  
A Henderson Parish Handy Person, February Invoice £238.00 (includes £58.00 for additional work and materials)  
Viking £98.04 (8 no Printing Ink Cartridges for Printing of Posters)  
Cormeton Fire Protection Ltd £54.00 Service of Community Centre Fire Extinguishers  
Fish Electrical Services Ltd £360.00 Annual Service of Community Centre Gas Boiler  
Chaplins Pantos £240.00 Deposit for 2018 Panto Cinderella for performance on Saturday 08.12.18  
Widdrington Community Centre Account £1,000.00

Cllr Batson proposed approval of the payments; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Mrs Willoughby and carried.

**12. To consider any urgent business which shall be limited to circumstances in which the Council's responsibilities cannot be met or the Council's interests are likely to be prejudiced, if the business is deferred to the next available meeting in order to allow for inclusion on the relevant agenda. None**

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Signed..... Date.....

